

CLAIMS

1. Telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network, the apparatus comprising means for establishing a connection from a mobile terminal in response to alphanumeric dialling on the mobile terminal, wherein alphanumeric dialling information is transmitted from the mobile terminal to the connection establishing means.
- 10 2. Apparatus according to claim 1, including means for acknowledging transmission of the alphanumeric dialling information back to the mobile terminal, the acknowledgement being indicative that the alphanumeric dialling information has been accepted for processing by the connection establishing means.
- 15 3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the transmission is arranged to bypass a short message service centre, such as by being intercepted before the short message service centre, in the mobile telephone network.
- 20 4. Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising a text message decoder for receiving a text message from a mobile station of the mobile telephone network, and for identifying the received text message as a request for connection, and means for using the received text to determine a first connection associated with the received text message, the connection establishing means being operable to set up a second connection to the mobile station that initiated the text message, to set up said first connection, and to connect said second connection to said first connection.
- 25 5. Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising a text message decoder for receiving a text message from a mobile station of the mobile telephone network, and for identifying the received text message as a request for connection, the decoder being operable to process the text message to derive an alphanumeric string which may be different from the received text, and means for using said derived string to determine a first connection associated with the received text message, the

connection establishing means being operable to set up a second connection to the mobile station that initiated the text message, to set up said first connection and to connect said second connection to said first connection.

5     6.     Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising a text message decoder for receiving a text message from a mobile station of the mobile telephone network, and for identifying the received text message as a request to define a connection, and means for using the received text to determine a first connection associated with the received text message, the connection establishing means being operable to receive a second connection from said mobile terminal, to set up said first connection, and to connect the received second connection from the mobile station to said first connection.

15    7.     Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising a text message decoder for receiving a text message from a mobile station of the mobile telephone network, and for identifying the received text message as a request to define a connection, the decoder being operable to process the text message to derive an alphanumeric string which may be different from the received text, and means for using said derived string to determine a first connection associated with the received text message, the connection establishing means being operable to receive a second connection from said mobile terminal, to set up said first connection, and to connect the received second connection from the mobile station to said first connection.

20    8.     Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said text message comprises a short message of the GSM Short Messages Services.

25    9.     Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said text message comprises an Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) message.

30    10.    Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said text message is delivered to the apparatus using direct delivery means or groomed means.

11. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the direct delivery means comprises an SMS router.
12. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said connection enabling means also sends an identification signal characteristic of the telephone number of the originating mobile station to the requested connection.  
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13. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 12, comprising means for announcing a connection identity to the caller before connection, thereby providing  
10 feedback to the caller regarding any translation that may have taken place between the text entered and the connection determined by the apparatus.
14. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 13, comprising means for providing a price announcement to the caller indicating charges that may apply to the  
15 connection determined by the apparatus.
15. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein a user sending a text message containing an email address to a service number is connected to a recording service which is operable to deliver a recorded voice message to the specified email  
20 address.
16. Apparatus for establishing a connection from a mobile telephone handset using alphanumeric dialling.
- 25 17. A method of establishing a connection from a mobile telephone handset using alphanumeric dialling.
18. A telecommunications services method for use with a mobile telephone network, the method comprising establishing a connection from a mobile terminal in  
30 response to alphanumeric dialling on the mobile terminal, wherein alphanumeric dialling information is transmitted from the mobile terminal to the connection establishing means.

19. A computer program for implementing a method according to claim 17 or claim 18.
- 5 20. A storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 19.